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NBC

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WRITER

PROGRAM TITLE UNCLE SAM'S FOREST RANGERS #399

OK

CHICAGO OUTLET WMAQ-BLUE

(11:30-12:30 PM) TIME (AUGUST 16, 1940) DATE (FRIDAY) DAY

PRODUCTION

ANNOUNCER

ENGINEER

REMARKS

C-PRO. 95

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers

MUSIC: Ranger Song

ANNOUNCER: Once upon a time -- and not so very long ago either--the forests of our United States were the richest in the world. Nearly half our total land area was covered with virgin hardwood and softwood forest the like of which no single independent nation has ever possessed before or since. Planks and tall spars and naval stores-pitch, turpentine and rosin -- were taken from these forests to build a great American navy and a merchant marine of clipper ships superior to any on the high seas. Logs, beams and lumber by the billions of board feet came from the forests for American homes, industrial plants and great cities. Millions of ties for our railroads, stulls for our mines and poles for our telephone and telegraph systems came from the forests. In short, in all our history, the forest has been one of our most essential bulwarks --not only for our national defense but for our peaceful development....But we have treated our forests wastefully and extravagantly. For nearly fifty years now the United States Forest Service has been taking the leadership in the movement for conservation. For nearly fifty years the Forest Service has warned us against forest devastation. In the national forests under its administration, it has shown how forestry can be practiced and forests maintained for continuous use. But vast areas of our forest lands -- areas in private ownership upon which we are nationally dependent--are still being destructively exploited and devasted nevertheless.

(MORE)

ANNOUNCER: (CONTINUED) Now as we are being called upon for heroic efforts to protect America against ominous forces abroad, the Forest Service issues its most urgent warning once more: Nation wide action is immediately needed for improved forest practices and forest regulatory laws that will insure the perpetuation and wise use of our forest resources for all time....

Out on the Pine Cone National Forest, Ranger Jim Robbins has been asked to make a radio address over the Station in Willow Glen. And while he won't admit to his wife Bess, or to assistant ranger Jerry Quick that he's worried at all, the prospect of making his first formal radio address has him going just the same -- especially as the time grows near. And right now, where do you suppose we find Jim -- of all places, out in the ranger station barn practicing his speech to Bertha, the pack mule.

JIM: (FADING IN ORATORICALLY) The ultimate objective of forest conservation is human welfare. If properly managed our forests can become an empire of opportunity for millions of ... of...(SOUND OF PAPER RATTLING) Daw-gonnit now, what happened to that other piece of paper ...Bertha, I'd sure be in a fine mess if I get these papers mixed up like this tonight, wouldn't I....U-mm.Ah.(CLEARS VOICE AND GOES BACK INTO ORATORICAL STYLE) If properly managed our forests can become an empire ofopportunity for millions of....

(SUDDEN PANDEMONIUM OF MULE STOMPING, KICKING SIDE OF STALL, SQUEALING, SNORTING, ETC.)

JIM: (SHOUTS) Whoa. Whoa, there, Bertha, you old fool you. Whoa.
(SQUEALING AND KICKING INCREASES)
SLIM: (SHOUTS OFF) Hey! (RUNNING ON) Whoa Bertha. Whoa. Stop it now....Whoa.
JIM: (BREATHLESS) Whoa, you crazy bat-eyed bunch of....
SLIM: Let go a Bertha's halter rope, Jim. She's awful sensitive when you call her names like that. (MORE KICKING AND SQUEALING) Lookout, she's got her ears back, Jim. She's liable to bite yuh.
JIM: (GRUNTS) Whoa, you old fool. Wanta bite me, huh? (GRUNTS) Now what're you going to do?
SLIM: Don't hold the rope too tight around her nose, Jim. YUh might shut off her wind.
JIM: Somebody should have shut off her wind once and for all a long time ago.
SLIM: Something upset her, Jim, that's what. Bertha doesn't act up like that unless something upsets her. She's awful sensitive Bertha is, and she's had her feelings hurt.
JIM: That mule of yours'll have more than her feelings hurt if I have to put up with her much longer, Slim.
SLIM: Now Jim, don't be sayin' things like that about Bertha. What're them papers you got there in your hand? I'll bet them's the things that set Bertha going. Gee wiz, Jim, you shouldn't be comin' down around the barn with your office work.

JIM: The old fool didn't even see these papers 'till after this fracus started. She's just a....

SLIM: Well you musta done something to upset her like this, Jim. What were you doing?

JIM: I was practicin' a speech, that's all. The old bat ought to know my voic...

JERRY: (COMING ON) Hey, what's goin' on downhere? What's all the commotion about, Slim?

SLIM: Well it was Jim here, Jerry. He was practic'n' that there speech a his an' Bertha didn't like it. Bertha don't understand this fancy speech-makin'! She's gotta be talked to easy.

JERRY: (STARTING TO LAUGH) Youmean Jim here was givin' his radio speech to the mules? (LAUGHS UPROARIOUSLY) Boy this is good! It's wonderful. And Bertha didn't like it, huh?

JIM: (CHUCKLING MILDLY) Well, I guess it is kinda funny but I had to have somewhere to practice that conservation speech. And I didn't figure. . .

JERRY: Bertha the anti-conservation mule....

SLIM: No sir, Jerry. Bertha's plenty conservation minded. She likes conservation fine. It's just this oratory that get's her upset.

JERRY: (STILL CHUCKLING) Well, I hope it doesn't upset everybody like that.

JIM: By George, Jerry, by the time we get ready it'll be time to go to Willow Glen. We want to get up to that radio studio in plenty of time.

JERRY: Aw we've still got lots of time, Jim. Are you sure you aren't getting a little nervous about making this speech?

JIM: I guess I am, Jerry....In spite ofall my big talk last week, I'm ...kinda scared...But i want to try to do a good job of it, just the same.

JERRY: Well, I read that speech of yours Jim, and I think it's mighty fine...but it doesn't exactly sound like you...like when you're talking tome, or Slim here, or...or the boys down at Andy Goodman's store. Just givin' 'em plain straight talk.

JIM: Well I'm afraid it's too late to make any changes now. (FADING) Come on, we've got to go.

MUSIC UP

FADE DOWN TO RADIO MUSIC BACK ON FILTER

BESS: (FADING IN) My goodness, I never imagine a broadcasting studio was anything like this, did you Jerry?

JERRY: No, this is my first visit to a radio station too, Mrs. Robbins. It's sure nice to be able to sit here and look through the glass and see everything that's going on.

BESS: I should say so. I certainly hope Jim doesn't get too nervous in there when he's supposed to go on.

JERRY: He was kinda scared all right, but look at him in there now, --he's acting just like this was an everyday occurrence for him.

BESS: Well, you know Jim. He'd never let on that he was upset or worried even if he was.

RADIO MUSIC ENDS

ANNOUNCER: (OVER RADIO) You have just been listening to another of this Station's dinnertime concert programs. Music has been by Ray Jones and his orchestra playing from our studio in Willow Glen...

JERRY: (EXCITED) That means Jim's about ready to go on, Mrs. Robbins.

BESS: Oh Jerry. I hope everything goes all right.

JERRY: There's Jim at the microphone. He seems to be plenty calm.

BESS: I hope so. I hope he isn't as nervous as I am.

BRIEF PAUSE

ANNOUNCER: And now, ladies and gentlemen of our radio audience, we bring you an interesting personality...a man who has devoted much of his life to protecting the forests which mean so much to us in our national defense and welfare. This station takes pleasure tonight in presenting Ranger Jim Robbins of the Pine Cone National Forest. Mr. Robbins will speak to us on the subject of Why We Need to Take Immediate Action to Save Our Forests...Mr. Robbins....

JERRY: (QUICKLY) There's something funny, Mrs. Robbins. Jim's got his paper there in front of him, but he isn't looking at it at all. Look he's gone and stuck it in his pocket.

BESS: My goodness, he's taken out his jacknife!

JIM: (OVER RADIO -SIMPLE EVERYDAY STYLE) Folks, I'm one of those kind of people that talks best when he's got a good sharp jack-knife and a nice soft piece of wite pine to whittle on. So folks, I'm not going to make you an oration. I'M just gonna sit here by the microphone and whittle and talk. And if you can dig out your pocket knives and get a piece of wood so you can sit there and whittle and listen that's going to be all the better. It gets you to thinking about wood, whittling does....

JERRY: (SOTO) Jim's gone crazy, Mrs. Robbins! That's not his speech at all!

JIM: And thinking about wood gets you to thinkin' about the forest. And folks, I'm not exaggerating, we need to think about our forests here in America plenty. I'm telling you straight, our forest situation is far from what it should be. And if we don't stand up on our hind legs ... everyone of us individually I mean .. and do something about it.. well .. you all know where farmers that have let all their good soil wash down the hill wind up. They generally wind up on relief, without any farm. And that's where thousands of our forest workers have already wound up ... on relief without any forests ... There's a line from the poet Wordsworth that's worth thinking about. He said: "Hope rules a land forever green"...."Hope rules a land forever green"....(FADING) Now I want to tell you a little story...

BRIEF PAUSE

RADIO MUSIC IN BACKGROUND FADING

JERRY: Say Jim, you did swell! But what happened? Why didn't you read your speech like you wrote it?

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Well, dawgonit Jerry, I didn't read it because I didn't have it.

JERRY: Huh?

JIM: Yep, durin' that fracas with Bertha this afternoon I musta left part of it down there in the barn. And when I got in there in the studio and started lo king over what I had I found the first two pages missin'. So I had to do somethin!

BESS: Just the same, Jim, that was a wonderful talk you made. It sounded just like you.

JIM: I'm glad it did, Bess. I was sure plenty worried.

JERRY: Well I've got to hand it to you, Jim. You sure didn't look or sound worried. You just started in to talk like you were sittin' down there talkin' to the boys at Andy Goodman's store, and you know what the station manager told you...

JIM: (CHUCKLES) Yeah, I know all right, Jerry. I know only too well. He wants me to come back an' sweat blood talkin' into that tin can in there some more.

MUSIC: FINALE

ANNOUNCER: Uncle Sam's Forest Rangers comes to you each Friday on the National Farm and Home Hour as a presentation of the National Broadcasting Company, with the cooperation of the United States Forest Service.

Folks we're mighty sorry you had to miss the rest of that whittlin' talk Ranger Jim gave today in Willow Glen. It was an eye-opener on our whole forest situation. But since you didn't get to hear all of Ranger Jim's talk, the Forest Service has made arrangements for everyone interested in knowing what Ranger Jim had to say about saving our forests to get a copy of his talk by simply dropping them a post card. Address your requests to the United States Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Washinton, D. C. and a copy of Ranger Jim's full talk will be mailed to you....

ANNOUNCER: (CONTINUED) Today, out on the Arapaho (pr. Arah' pa ho) National Forest near Denver, Colorado, the United States Forest Service, in appreciation of the conservation work done by Camp Fire Girls throughout the country, is dedicating a recreational area as a tribute to the Camp Fire Girls of America. At Arapaho Viewpoint on Echo Lake Road where dedication ceremonies are being held today a bronze plaque has been erected which reads "Dedicated to the Camp Fire Girls whose work in forest conservation has helped to direct the attention of American youth to the importance of their country's trees and soil."

Dedication addresses will be given by Colonel Allen S. Peck, Regional Forester for Region Two of the United States Forest Service, and by Dr. Arnold Minnig, President of the Denver Council of Camp Fire Girls....Looking far ahead, as all conservationists should, the Denver Campfire Girls have started on a twenty-five year plan for conservation, and other groups throughout the country are doing similar worthwhile things...So, today, we salute the Camp Fire Girls and wish more power to them in their work for conservation.

SR: 2:35 PM-8/14/40